

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the two paragraphs beginning at p. 4, line 29 as follows:

A1 In the system of FIG. 2, the BPU 240 determines which instructions are likely to be required for execution. The BPU 240 interrogates the instruction cache ~~memory~~-230 to determine whether the required instruction is present therein. If so, the "request" is said to hit the instruction cache ~~memory~~-230. The instruction cache ~~memory~~-230 furnishes the required instruction to the decoder 250. If not, if the request "misses" the cache, then the ICS 210 may issue a request to the cache hierarchy for the required instruction. Often, the request propagates through the levels of the cache hierarchy. At each level, a hit/miss determination is made to determine whether the required instruction is present in the respective level. If so, the required instruction is furnished to the ICS 210; if not, the request propagates to a next higher level.

When an instruction is provided to the ICS 210, the instruction may be received both by the instruction ~~internal~~-cache 230 and by the decoder 250. The decoder 250 may decode the instruction and provide it to the selector 290. The instruction ~~internal~~-cache 230 may store the instruction. Thus, if the BPU 240 later determines that the instruction is required for execution, the instruction (unless evicted by some other instruction) will be present in the instruction ~~internal~~-cache 230.

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